



# A-Level Philosophy

AQA Course Code: 7172

Contact: Mr D Shoker

## Course Outline:

This course is aimed at those who are prepared for an open-minded exploration of the big questions, in particular the medical, legal and moral issues that affect the lives of us all today, as well as deeper philosophical questions about the nature of the universe and of humanity, and the existence or non-existence of God.

In the year 1 we cover 'Epistemology' and 'Moral Philosophy'. In the first unit we examine where ideas and knowledge come from. Does knowledge come from Reason (like Maths) or our senses (like Science)? Can we know anything at all? Do we perceive the world as it really is and how does perception work? In 'Moral Philosophy', we study theories of morality/ethics. We apply these theories to things like war, crime and punishment, simulated killing (in computer games and films), and the status of animals.

In year 2 we study 'Metaphysics of Mind' and 'Metaphysics of God'. In Philosophy of Mind we examine what consciousness might be. Consciousness is still one of the biggest mysteries of Philosophy and Science. What is the Mind? Is it a non-physical 'soul'? What is the relationship between mind and brain? Can we create computers that think (Artificial Intelligence)? In the second unit we examine questions which may relate to what you have studied at GCSE. Is there any good reason to believe a God exists? Does morality come from a God's decisions, or are things good and bad independently of God?

## Assessment Framework:

Assessment will be 100% exam and is will comprise of 2 exam papers at the end of Yr13.

Questions will cover all four topics:

- Epistemology (Study of knowledge)
- Moral Philosophy (Ethics)
- Metaphysics of Mind
- Metaphysics of God

## Course Entry Requirements:

English, History, Sociology or equivalent Humanity 6

## Why Study A-Level Philosophy?

An A Level in Philosophy is a highly regarded qualification that gives you important skills highly prized in many roles. The ability to think critically, to reason better, to evaluate arguments and to communicate complex ideas in a clear and concise manner is valued by both universities and employers.

Studying this subject is therefore particularly useful for future study or a career in areas such as Law, Politics, Journalism, Medicine, Business and other Humanities subjects.